

Council on Mentally Ill Offenders (COMIO) 2016 Work Plan

Overview:

Since 2001, California, through the Council on Mentally Ill Offenders (COMIO), has recognized that individuals living with mental illness are at risk of becoming criminally involved without access to support and needed services. COMIO is a 12 member council chaired by the Secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and is composed of key state departments and appointed expert representatives from criminal justice and mental health. Together the Council's purpose is to *investigate, identify, and promote* cost-effective strategies that:

- Prevent adults and juveniles with mental health needs from becoming offenders;
- Improve services for adults and juveniles with mental health needs who have a history of offending; and
- Identify incentives to encourage state and local criminal justice, juvenile justice, and mental health programs to adopt such approaches.

In 2015 the Council prioritized the following areas to make recommendations:

- Diversion of persons with mental health needs from the criminal justice system;
- Improvement of first responder training for encounters with persons with mental illness; and
- Prevention of youth with mental health needs from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system.

COMIO provided a comprehensive annual report, including recommendations on these priorities, to the Legislature which can be accessed at <http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/COMIO/>.

In 2016 the Council is tasked with conducting activities to fulfill their purpose and further address the priorities identified in 2015. The council will use a work plan to focus and structure their actions. This work plan will be reviewed and adopted at the January 21, 2016 meeting. Recognizing the complexity of the issues, the rapidly changing environment, and the need to seize opportunities for progressive change, the work plan may be updated as necessary on an on-going basis.

The work plan will consist of 3 elements:

- Effectively Communicating and Conducting COMIO's Mission and Work
- Investigating, Identifying, and Promoting Cost Effective Strategies and Best Practices
- Providing Incentives for Adoption of Cost Effective Strategies and Best Practices

Effectively Communicating and Conducting COMIO's Mission and Work

AREA	Objective	Activities	Output/Product/ or Outcome	Due Date
Communication Plan	Develop a comprehensive communication plan to effectively promote the mission and purpose of COMIO	1. Develop messaging and tools for COMIO members regarding 2015 report and recommendations	Executive Summary, Fact Sheet a	January 2016
		2. Widely and effectively disseminate 2015 annual report	Print and mail to identified key audiences and	February 2016
		3. Provide regular updates via email to key external stakeholders	E-newsletter, Presentations	On-going 2016
		4. Enhance website as a primary communication and resource tool	Improvements and updates to web content	April 2016
			Increased traffic to the website/ improved google analytics	September 2016
Relationship Building/ Collaboration	Strategically involve and support critical COMIO partners and collaborators	1. Identify strategic partners and collaborators and determine if and how COMIO can offer support – including participating in their workgroup/ committee structures	Strengthen ad-hoc committee participation	March 2016
		2. Invite appropriate partners and collaborators to ad-hoc committees and workgroups to strengthen on the ground expertise	Share and promote other's aligned work	On-going

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Capacity Building/ Form and Structure	Determine an effective yet feasible model for future council meetings, including ad-hoc committee or workgroup components	1. Research best practices models for other state councils and commissions		June 2016
		2. Seek input from members and stakeholders		June 2016
	Investigate strategies to support COMIO capacity building	3. Maximizing Partnerships with other State and Local Government partners, and associated entities such as research and public policy entities, etc.		On-going
		4. Student Assistant(s)		ASAP

COMIO Activities for 2016 – Investigate, Identify and Promote Cost Effective Strategies and Best Practices

(Note that activities are listed in priority order based on ad-hoc committee input)

Priority Area	Objective	Activities	Output/ Product/ or Outcome	Due Date
DIVERSION	Investigate the following challenges and begin to answer the questions “ <i>Divert to What</i> ” and “ <i>Divert to Where</i> ”	1. Map which entities are studying what regarding emerging best practices from public safety realignment, MIOCR, MHSA programs and others. What are we learning specifically about criminally involved persons with mental illness and what do we still need to know?	Report Findings	July 2016
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Can we identify/assess the size and needs of criminally involved persons with mental illness in different counties? ➤ What mix of community services, including housing is needed for this population? ➤ Where are MHSA or Public Safety Funds presently being spent on criminally involved persons with mental illness in each of our Counties? ➤ How can we maximize federal Medicaid dollars to create substance abuse/mental health residential facilities? ➤ How can we address existing barriers to capacity building (e.g. Nimbyism and Data Sharing) with solutions or strategies to overcome them? 	2. Participate in Prop 47 Implementation	Diversion is Prioritized	On-going
		3. Promote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Contents of 2015 report ➤ Centralized assessment and triage centers ➤ a common assessment tool ➤ identifiers for community placed high-risk individuals ➤ adequate housing and residential options 	Report Findings	On-going November 2016
	Investigate strategies to tie diversion	4. Identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Local programs that are effectively serving criminally involved persons (adult and youth) with mental health challenges ➤ The role Public Guardians play in 	Report Findings	November 2016

	<p>efforts to the existing mental health system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Are existing local mental health delivery systems user-friendly and qualified to work with criminally involved persons with mental illness arrested in the community? 	<p>diversion and support improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Barriers to providers serving the target population (e.g. restrictions on services due to criminal status) ➤ Policy and legislative barriers that need to be addressed for the above <p>5. Participate in planning grant efforts for Certified Behavioral Health Clinics</p>	<p>Crisis and Coordination Services are Prioritized</p>	<p>November 2016</p>
<p>FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING</p>	<p>Continue to learn more about the training delivered to correctional staff, probation staff, and parole staff. <i>This recognizes that "first responders" includes law enforcement personnel.</i></p> <p>Support high quality Mental Health Training for first responders and <i>community</i> correctional staff (i.e. county probation officers, state parole agents, and state, county and city correctional officers).</p> <p>Identify strategies to support the mental well-being of first responders themselves.</p>	<p>1. Promote contents of existing annual report</p> <p>2. Build on what has already been accomplished with focus on enhancing understanding of the training needs of a full range of first responders including fire and emergency services</p> <p>3. Act as a conduit for multiple training entities, facilitate sharing of best practices including the use of data to inform training strategies</p> <p>4. Investigate the training being provided across entities and how COMIO can be a resource for those interested in improving their training, especially those working at the community level</p> <p>5. Investigate what is being done to</p>	<p>Dissemination</p> <p>Report Findings</p> <p>Dissemination, support collaboration</p> <p>Report Findings</p> <p>Report Findings</p>	<p>February 2016</p> <p>June 2016</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>September 2016</p> <p>November</p>

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		support the mental well-being of first responders		2016
PREVENT JJ SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT	Continue to promote promising practices in prevention and early intervention programs that could significantly reduce criminal justice contact for youth with trauma and other mental health needs.	1. Promote existing contents of annual report and send to identified prevention partners.	Dissemination	February 2016
		2. Investigate added value role COMIO can provide in the Continuum of Care Reforms being implemented by the CA Depart of Social Services	Participation, if warranted, in implementation activities	On-going
	Collaborate with Diversion and Training Committees, when appropriate, to include the needs of juveniles/ youth in their activities	3. Investigate the content and availability of training to support youth with mental health needs who are or who are at risk of incarceration	Report Findings	September 2016
	Promote strategies to address the racial and ethnic disproportion of youth of color in the juvenile justice system.	4. Identify and promote resources to address the racial and ethnic disproportion of youth of color in the JJ system made available by the Board of State and Community Corrections and others to support implementation of effective strategies	Report Findings	November 2016

Providing Incentives for Adoption of Cost Effective Strategies and Best Practices

Priority Area	Objective	Activity	Output/ Product/ or Outcome	Due Date
DIVERSION	Raise Awareness of Model Programs	Model Program Local Site Visit or Educational Forum	COMIO Best Practices Award	November 2016
TRAINING	Raise Awareness of Model Programs	Model Program Local Site Visit or Educational Forum	COMIO Best Practice Award	November 2016
PREVENT JJ SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT	Raise Awareness of Model Programs	Model Program Local Site Visit or Educational Forum	COMIO Best Practice Award	November 2016